CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC WELFARE

THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS AND THE PRIVATE SCHOOLS[1]

THE oldest university ever under the American flag is not Harvard in Cambridge but Santo Tomas in Manila. Hoary with age and tradition as Harvard is, Santo Tomas is by a quarter of a century the older. The Royal and Pontifical University of Santo Tomas, to give Santo Tomas its official title, was founded in 1611 by the Most Reverend Miguel de Benavides, third Archbishop of Manila. The University has had a continuous existence during all the years of Spanish and American control.

Conservatism, as possibly should be expected from a Catholic-founded school, has marked the career of Santo Tomas. It was established for the children of Spaniards only, but later admitted Filipinos. For some years after American occupation, Santo Tomas was not very enthusiastic about the new regime, and continued to make use of antiquated educational methods. Suddenly the Dominican fathers who constituted the faculties of Santo Tomas about-faced, revised their curricula, admitted women to their halls, and erected new buildings. The University is now modern in every way, and through its various colleges and schools affords splendid opportunities for Filipino youths to obtain religious and secular

instruction. Many of the best-known Filipinos are graduates of Santo Tomas.

[1] Section read by Mr. Lino J. Castillejo, Superintendent of Private Schools and Colleges. See OfEcial Bulletins of the University of Santo Tomas 3 and Frank C. Laubach, *The People of the Philippines* (1925), Part vn.